

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----150946Z 074708 /13

P 150800Z JUN 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4499

S E C R E T SEOUL 4961

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, KS, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: SEOUL 4212

1. ON BASIS OF INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE TO US, PRESIDENT PARK IS STILL MOVING TOWARD RELEASE OF MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS ALONG LINES SCENARIO OUTLINED REFTEL. ALL REPORTS INDICATE THAT PARK REACTED VERY FAVORABLY TO HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TAKEN DURING HABIB/BROWN VISIT, AND IS EVEN MORE INCLINED TO MAKING HELPFUL GESTURE TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.

2. KCIA DIRECTOR KIM JAE-KYU CONFIRMED ABOVE CONCLUSIONS TO ME JUNE 13. KIM, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE PINNED DOWN ON TIMING OF PARK MOVE STATING THAT IT COULD COME EITHER SOONER OR MAYBE LATER THAN EXPECTED. HE ADDITIONALLY SAID THAT WHETHER ALL OR MAYBE JUST SOME OF MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS MIGHT BE RELEASED INITIALLY DEPENDED UPON THEIR STATE OF SOME, HE SAID, WERE CLEARLY MORE "REPENTANT" THAN OTHERS. KIM DEFINED "REPENTANCE" IN VERY VAGUE AND AMBIGUOUS TERMS, INDICATING THAT TO SOME EXTENT IT CONSTITUTED DEGREE OF DISCOURAGEMENT WITH EXTERNAL (READ U.S.) SUPPORT TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE. HE SAID THAT WHEN DEFENDANTS RECOGNIZE THAT
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RELEASE DEPENDED UPON ROKG ACTIONS AND NOT EXTERNAL PRESSURES, THEN CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE WOULD BE FAVORABLE.

3. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE VARIOUS REPORTS THAT ROKG IS DISCOURAGING DISSIDENTS FROM ANTICIPATING POSITIVE RESULTS FROM EXTERNAL PRESSURES ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. IN FACT, DISSIDENTS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET IN RECENT WEEKS EXCEPT

FOR HUNGER STRIKE MY MOON IK-HWAN0 KCIA DIRECTOR COMMENTED
THAT INTERNAL SITUATION WAS VERY STABLE RECENTLY.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS STILL PRUDENT TO REMAIN CAUTIOUS
ON CONCESSIONS BY PARK ON HUMAN RIGHTS, PROSPECTS FOR
RELEASE OF SOME OF THE MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS BY AUGUST 15
SEEM REASONABLY GOOD PROVIDING UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS DO
NOT UPSET SCENARIO. ACTION EARLIER IS ALSO POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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RELEASE, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS
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